

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God keeps promises.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
PLAGUE BANNERS: Kids depict one or more of the plagues and talk about the promises of God.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Poster board pieces, pictures of a frog, a gnat, a fly, a locust, a skin boil; markers, scissors, magazine pictures of bugs, desert landscapes, rivers, cows, sheep; stickers of bugs, animals, frogs, locusts; crayons, glue sticks
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: We are God's people!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers
MY SIGN OF FAITH: Kids create signs that show we are God's people.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: White poster board, construction paper in a variety of colors, pencils, markers, scissors, craft scissors with fancy edges (optional) glue sticks, whiteboard or chart paper
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: The Bible helps me know how much God loves me.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles
MY OWN MEZUZAH: Kids make Bible memory cards and a box in which to store them.	SUPPLIES: Mezuzah (optional)	SUPPLIES: Chart paper, note cards, empty macaroni and cheese boxes, scissors or X-ACTO® knife, construction paper cut into strips, glue sticks, markers, stickers, sequins or jewels, list of suggested Bible verses



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: God keeps promises.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksondayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Plagues Storytelling

Gather in a circle and welcome the kids to the Art workshop. **Who says, “no,” a lot?** (*my parents, my baby sister, my teacher, etc.*)

Why do you think they say, “no”? (*Because they love me and don’t want me to do something that will hurt me.*)

In the story we are going to hear today, Pharaoh says, “no” a lot, but he doesn’t say no because he loves God and God’s people, he says no because he wants to keep God’s people as slaves.

I am going to read the story from our Spark Story Bible and I need your help. In this story there are several verses like a song. Each verse ends with the phrase, “And Pharaoh still said, ‘No.’” Each time I come to that phrase, I will pause and I would like you to say, “No!” Open the Spark Story Bible to page 78 and read The Plagues to the kids, pausing at the end of each verse so that they can say, “No!”

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Pharaoh was very stubborn, wasn't he? He liked to say "no" because he didn't want to let God's people go. But saying no all of the time hurt Pharaoh and all of the people in Egypt. God promised to set the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt, and God did set them free because God always keeps promises.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Plague Banner

Set Up: Prepare a sample banner in advance.

Activity Instructions

Can you imagine what it would look like to have thousands of frogs hopping in and out of your homes and yards and schools!? What would that be like?

And think of the air looking black because of thousands of flies or gnats flying around! Yuck!

Let's make a banner to remind us of the plagues. You can create one or more of the plagues. You can use words, magazine pictures, stickers, markers, or all these things.

1. Give each kid a piece of poster board.
2. Point out the materials they can use to depict the plague(s) they have chosen.
3. Show the kids how they can take a landscape, such as one of the pictures of a desert, and draw lots of bugs on it, or use the river landscape and color it red, etc.

As the kids work, walk around and help them spell words. Affirm their work. When everyone is finished, gather in a circle and invite the kids to share what plague(s) they have chosen, and what they think it would be like to experience that plague.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

8 x 10 inch (20 x 25 cm)

pieces of poster board, one per kid

Pictures of a frog, a gnat, a fly, a locust, a skin boil (use the Internet)

Markers

Scissors

Magazine pictures of bugs, desert landscapes, rivers, cows, sheep

Stickers of bugs, animals, frogs, locusts

Crayons

Glue sticks

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

The banners we made today show the plagues that God sent to Egypt. Why did God send the plagues? Allow kids to answer. **Yes, God sent the plagues to show everyone that God was in control, not Pharaoh. God sent the plagues to convince Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go. And, God sent the plagues to remind the Hebrews that God was going to keep the promise of leading them into the Promised Land.**

Hold up your banners. Let me see them!

Prayer Time

Dear God,

Thank you for these kids. Thank you for the time we've spent together creating art. Thank you for stories about people of faith. Thank you for always keeping your promises.

Repeat after me: Praise you, Lord!

Amen.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Workshop Focus: We are God's people!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Plagues Storytelling

Gather in a circle and welcome the kids to the Art workshop. **Do you have things taped on your bedroom door at home? Posters? Signs? What's on your door?** Let kids share. **You can tell a lot about people by what they display on their doors. Doors play an important part in our Bible story today.**

We are learning about the Ten Plagues that were sent to Egypt to get Pharaoh's attention. Pharaoh had made the Israelites slaves. God wanted Pharaoh to let the Israelites go but Pharaoh did not want to listen to God. Do you remember any of the plagues? Allow for a few responses. **We are going to read about the plagues from our Spark Bibles. Open to page 71.**

We are going to focus on the final plague that was sent to Egypt. In this plague God protects the Israelite people. Open your Spark Bible to Exodus 12:1-13. Is Exodus in the Old or the New Testament? (Old) And is it toward the beginning or toward the end of the Old Testament? (beginning) Help kids who need help and wait until all have found the correct place before proceeding. Read or invite volunteers to read verses 1 through 13 in chapter 12.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

There's some interesting and thought-provoking stuff in this passage, isn't there? Take one of your Spark Bible Stickers and place it in your Bible at this passage. If you don't understand something, use an I Don't Get It sticker. If you had a strong feeling while we were reading, use a Makes Me Feel sticker. You can choose any sticker that helps explain what you were thinking as we read this.

Allow time for this. **Would anyone like to share which sticker they put here and why?** Let a few kids share if they would like.

God gave Moses and Aaron many instructions to share with the Israelites so that they would be protected from the last plague and be ready to leave Egypt quickly. The most important instruction was to paint some lamb's blood on their doorposts. The blood would show that Israelite people lived behind the door and the angel of death would not go in. What we display on our doors tells others about who we are and what we believe.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

My Sign of Faith

Set Up: Prepare a sample "sign of faith" in advance. This sign could show symbols of your baptism (candle and white robe), your gifts (teaching, singing, writing, drawing, working outside), your service (helping another), your confirmation (oil, pastor, cross), ways we nurture our faith (praying, Bible, church).

Activity Instructions

The Israelites were told to put the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their homes so the Angel of Death would know that God's people lived there. The blood was a sign.

- 1. What signs do we have in our lives that show that we are God's people? Today we are going to make Signs of Faith, showing all the ways that God has blessed us and marked us as God's own.**
2. Show the sign made in advance and explain what each symbol means.
- 3. What would Moses' sign of faith look like?** (*Moses kneeling before the burning bush, Moses parting the Red Sea, Moses praying*)
4. Give each kid a poster board. Tell them they can cut symbols out of construction paper or draw them with markers or crayons. Ask them these questions to get them thinking about symbols they can use. Write their answers and your own on the board:

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

White poster board cut to 8
½ X 11 inch (22 x 28 cm)
Construction paper in a
variety of colors
Pencils
Markers
Scissors
Craft scissors with fancy
edges (optional)
Glue sticks
Whiteboard or chart paper

- **How can we make a symbol of Baptism?** (water, candles, white cloth)
 - **How can we make symbols of our gifts?** (teaching someone, a person singing, paint and paintbrush, pencil and paper, planting a tree)
 - **How can we make symbols of what we do to help others what we can call service?** (putting a bandage on another, cleaning up the environment, hugging someone, feeding someone, giving money, etc.)
 - **How can we make symbols of how we nurture our faith?** (praying, reading a Bible, going to church)
5. As kids are working, walk around to affirm and help them make their symbols and glue them to their poster boards.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

The Israelites were told to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts so the Angel of Death would know that God's people lived in that house. This blood was a sign, wasn't it?

Today we made signs of our faith. These signs are events in our lives or things we do to show that we are God's people. Hold up your signs.

Look at all the ways we can show that we are God's people. We belong to God!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Have kids repeat each phrase of the prayer after you.

Dear God,

Look at our Signs of Faith.

We thank you

For making us your people.

We ask you to give us the grace

To use our gifts

In ways that share love with others.

May we behave in ways

That others will know that we belong to you.

Repeat after me: Praise you, Lord!

Amen.

Workshop Focus: The Bible helps me know how much God loves me.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Plagues Storytelling

Welcome to Art! We are learning about the Ten Plagues that were sent to Egypt, to get Pharaoh's attention. God wanted Pharaoh to set the Israelite people free from slavery, but Pharaoh did not want to listen to God. Do you remember any of the plagues? Allow for a few responses. **Open your Spark Story Bibles to page 78.**

The older kids will enjoy reading the poem about The Plagues in the Spark Story Bible. **Let's take turns, beginning with (name) and everyone who wants to, read one line as dramatically as you can. This poem is about the plagues that God sent. The plagues were sent to get the attention of Pharaoh, but did Pharaoh listen? (no) What did Pharaoh keep saying to God? (No!) That's right. Let's read.** Read through page 83.

The Israelites were told by God to keep the memory of this escape holy. One way they remember this day is to have a little box called a mezuzah. Show a photo if you have one. **The mezuzah is attached to the right side of a doorpost. Inside the mezuzah is a treasure—God's Word! This verse from the Bible is written on a tiny piece of paper and put inside the box:**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Picture of a mezuzah (optional). Do an online search for images of a mezuzah.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” Deuteronomy 6:5

Whenever people go in and out they can see the mezuzah and remember that God’s word is a treasure. Many Jewish families have a mezuzah on their doorpost today and inside it is the same Bible verse from Deuteronomy. Because God’s Word, the treasure, is inside the box, many mezuzahs are decorated with jewels to look very beautiful.

Older kids, ask the younger kids to help you mark this verse in your Spark Bibles in Deuteronomy, on page 198, with a Spark Spot sticker.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

My Own Mezuzah

Set Up:

- Cut the macaroni and cheese boxes in half with the scissors or X-ACTO® knife. Cut around the middle so that you have two open boxes that are each 3½ inches (9 cm) tall. If the top of the box has been opened, glue the flaps closed so that the box can stand on end.
- Cut the construction paper strips.
- Write the following Bible verses on chart paper.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” Deuteronomy 6:5

“Choose this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?” Psalm 27:1

“O, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever!” Psalm 118:1

“I have inscribed [carved] you on the palms of my hands.” (Isaiah 49:16)

Activity Instructions

We are going to make a box that holds Bible verses. It will be like a Mezuzah, but it will hold more than one Bible verse. You will be able to put this box of Bible verses in a place where you will see it often. You could put it near your bed or wherever you read your Bible. Or you can attach it to your doorpost like a real Mezuzah! When you see it, you can read the verses and work on memorizing them, so that you can always treasure God’s Word.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Chart paper

3 x 5 inch (8 x 13 cm) note cards

Empty 7.25 ounce (204 grams) macaroni and cheese boxes (one for every two kids)

Scissors or X-ACTO® knife

Construction paper cut into 3½ x 12 inch (9 x 30 cm) strips

Glue sticks

Markers

Stickers

Sequins or jewels

List of suggested Bible verses

Older kids can help younger kids with writing for this activity.

1. Wrap the strip of construction paper around the box so it covers all of the words and pictures on the outside of the box. Glue the paper to the box.
2. Write a title on the front of the box: My Mezuzah, Kylee's Bible Verses, etc.
3. Write one Bible verse on each note card. Kids can draw pictures or symbols on the card to help them remember what the verse is about. Place cards in the box. Kids can use the Bible verses that are on the chart paper, or look in their Spark Bible to find verses they have marked.
4. Finish decorating the outside of the box with stickers, sequins or jewels.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Let's gather together and show each other our mezuzahs. When you show your mezuzah please also read your favorite Bible verse that you wrote on a card.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Have kids repeat the phrases of the prayer after you.

Dear God,

Your Word is a treasure.

Help me to read the Bible every day

And to memorize

These verses in my box.

Thank you for speaking to me

Through the Bible.

Amen.

